

How to be Good at Generosity

Generosity is a lifestyle of big-hearted and openhanded grace and mercy toward others--and especially toward those who are poor or vulnerable—because you live in constant awareness of the grace and mercy God has poured out to you and you are eager to show to the world the wonders of his loving heart.

Texts: various Psalms, Proverbs, II Corinthians 9:6-12

Slide 1: (all ESV)

Psalm 37:21 and 26

Proverbs 11:24-25

Proverbs 14:21, 31

Proverbs 19:17

Slide 2:

How to be good at ... generosity

I What generosity is

II Dangers to generosity

III How to be good at it

Slide 3:

I What generosity is

Dictionary: “Being kind and noble, willing to give money, time or help freely.

Having or showing nobility of character.”

Thesaurus: bigheartedness, openhandedness, liberality especially in charity.

Biblical Background:

1. Genesis 12:1-3 The Blessed/Blessing Dynamic (Elect “so that”)

2. Deut 15:4-8 The Poverty Mandate (Incarnating grace)

Slide 4:

II Dangers to generosity

A grudging heart, scheming “generosity”

Deut 15:9-11 ESV (please print out)

Self interest / Prosperity “gospel”

Individualism/private ownership mindset

Lev 25:23 ESV (please print out)

Psalm 24:1 ESV (please print out)

Slide 5:

How to be good at generosity

II Corinthians 9:6-12 (ESV) Please put on screen)

Slide 6:

1. Understand Generosity as Gospel Re-enactment (grace and mercy)
2. Believe God's Seed Principle (Blessed to be a blessing)
3. Guard your hearts (verse 7)
4. Trust God's Economy (verses 8-10)
5. Celebrate the blessing (verses 11-15) (before in faith; after in thankful worship)

Discussion

1. What in the message *challenged* (confronted, stimulated) you this AM?
2. What in the message *blessed you*? Discuss what should be the "so that" of your blessing. Remember: we are blessed by God *so that* we will be a blessing.
3. What blessings might God have given you—to make you a blessing to others—that you may have been thinking of as a non-blessing?